

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior listings, and versions, of the claims with the following claims, wherein text to be added is indicated by underlining and text to be deleted is indicated by strike-through.

1. (currently amended) A method for treating myocardial infarction, comprising:
administering to a subject in need of such treatment ~~an Akt nucleic acid in an amount effective to inhibit cardiac tissue necrosis in the subject, wherein the Akt nucleic acid comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding an Akt polypeptide which shares at least 98% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:2~~ a composition comprising a replication-defective adenovirus comprising a polynucleotide, wherein said Akt nucleic acid composition is administered acutely into cardiac tissue apical and anterolateral free wall of heart, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes an Akt polypeptide, operatively linked to a promoter to promote expression of the Akt polypeptide in cardiomyocytes, wherein the Akt polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 2-41. (canceled)
42. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~Akt nucleic acid~~ polynucleotide consists of a ~~nucleic acid~~ nucleotide sequence that encodes ~~an the~~ Akt polypeptide ~~having~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
43. (canceled)
44. (canceled)
45. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~Akt nucleic acid~~ polynucleotide has a ~~nucleic acid~~ nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

46. (canceled)

47. (canceled)

48. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~Alt nucleic acid~~ polynucleotide has a ~~nucleic acid~~ nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1.

49-58. (canceled)